

Miscellaneous
papers bearing
on the World war

Y.1.7.1101

940

.92

M683

v. 14, no 1



940.92
M 683

Italy and the Jugo-Slavs

in

Istria and Dalmatia

T. D. M.



JOSEPH BRUNO

Printing and Linotype Composition

742 Christian St., Phila., Pa.

— 1919 —

UNIVERSITY
OF
PENNSYLVANIA
LIBRARY

INDEX.

Foreword	p. 5
Italy and Jugo Slavs	" 7
Glance into the History of Dalmatia	" 9
Austro-Croatian Methods	" 12
Austrian Census Returns and Statistics	" 13
What a prominent Croat boasted	" 15
German propaganda and Jugo-Slavs	" 17
Slavs and Slavs	" 18
Naboth's Vineyard	" 21
The surrender of the fleet	" 22
That plebiscite	" 23
The Italian Lake	" 24
Voices from Dalmatia and Istria	" 27
Appendix	" 29

940.92

M 683

v. 14, no. 1-

JOSEPH BRUNO
Printer and Linotype Composition
742 Christian St. Phila. Pa.

— 1919 —

UNIVERSITY

OF

LIBRARY

LIBRARY

Pamphlets relating to Italy & the war,
(title 809 v. 14)
Italy - Hist - Eur. war 1914 - date - Hist

TO THE PRESIDENT
AND TO THE PEOPLE
OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA

THESE LINES
ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

yz 588.21 120

453307

TO THE PRESIDENT
AND TO THE PEOPLE
OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA
THESE PAPERS
ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

FOREWORD

Years ago the writer had the privilege to visit the French and Italian lands then under German and Austrian rule. He studied conditions at close range, objectively, by getting into touch with many representative people of the "conquering" as well as the "conquered" races in their respective home lands, without committing himself to either side.

Later, through correspondence, and also by personal contact with equally good friends from the mutually antagonistic camps, he was enabled to keep up an uninterrupted interest in the burning question, and to gradually arrive at a free and honest conclusion.

Long and assiduous researches into the geographic, strategic and historic literature of the subject have strengthened and corroborated that conclusion, and none of the clumsy plausibilities of the most up-to-date propaganda could make him swerve from it.

At this eventful hour when the Franco - German problem seems well nigh solved by France, up to the Rhine, and by Italy up to the Alps and the Brenner pass, the controversy seems to hinge only on the east coast of the Adriatic. A large group of natives of those shores having requested the writer, at a public meeting, to put in writing, for their sake, some of the main facts in the case, he has cheerfully consented to do so, in the hope that this personal and unpretentious contribution may help, ever so little, the cause of justice, truth and liberty.

T. D. M.

Phila., Pa., U. S. A., Jan. 1919.

3-19-19 Gift of J. G. Rosenberger

FOREWORD

Years ago the writer had the privilege to visit the French and Italian lands then under German and Austrian rule. He studied carefully the history of those lands, objectively, by getting into touch with many representative people of the "conquering" as well as the "conquered" races in their respective home lands, without committing himself to either side.

Later, through correspondence, and also by personal contact with equally good friends from the mutually antagonistic camps, he was enabled to keep up an uninterrupted interest in the burning question, and to gradually arrive at a free and honest conclusion.

Long and assiduous researches into the geographic, strategic and historic literature of the subject have strengthened and corroborated that conclusion, and none of the many possibilities of the most up-to-date propaganda could make him swerve from it.

At this eventful hour when the Franco-German problem seems well nigh solved by France, up to the Rhine, and by Italy up to the Alps and the Brenner pass, the controversy seems to hinge only on the coast of the Adriatic. A large group of natives of those shores having requested the writer, at a public meeting, to put in writing, for their sake, some of the main facts in the case, he has cheerfully consented to do so, in the hope that this personal and unpretentious contribution may help, ever so little, the cause of justice, truth and liberty.

T. D. M.

Philadelphia, U. S. A., Jan. 1919.

ITALY AND THE JUGO-SLAVS

Two worlds separated by the Dinaric Alps.

What does Geography teach us on the subject? A glance at the map of Europe shows even a child that the great strategic, geographic and ethnic frontier that separates the Latin from the Germanic world was drawn by the hand of the Creator on the Rhine river and on the Alps of the Brenner region. The same glance shows also that a powerful extension of the same Alpine barrier separates the Latin from the Slavic world, along the crests of the Julian, Velebit and Dinaric Alps, from the borders of Carinthia all the way down, parallel with the Adriatic shore, to the borders of Montenegro and Albania.

West of the Dinaric Alps lie Istria, Dalmatia, and the whole basin of the Adriatic, an integral part of the Latin civilization, while on the eastern slopes of those Alps is found the great orographic basin of the Danube river, into which run all the rivers of Jugo-Slavia, like the Save, the Drave and others, and on which is built the future metropolis of the new commonwealth; Belgrade, whilst none of the Jugo-Slavic rivers runs into the Adriatic. The Danube, that incomparable inland water way, is the orographic, ethnographic and economic outlet of Croatia and the other Jugo-Slav countries, from Vienna to the Black sea.

In addition to the Danube river, Jugo-Slavia has another equally great, if not greater natural, geographic and commercial outlet on the valley of the Vardar river down to Saloniki and the Aegean sea. Saloniki, a cosmopo-

litan city, with over sixty thousand Jews, huge Armenian, Italian, Bulgarian colonies and other Jugo-Slavs of Macedonia and Serbia, has but a small minority of Greeks, but was annexed by Greece recently, and cut off from Macedonian Serbia, its natural and immemorial hinterland. Austria coveted Saloniki for ages as her rightful outlet. Compared with it her Adriatic ports of Trieste, Pola, Cattaro and others were "as nothing". And it was in the hope of getting hold of Saloniki that Austria tried to swallow up little Serbia that stood in her way, and she risked and lost all in the attempt. Now that Serbia has grown into Jugo-Slavia it will not be long before she will claim Saloniki. . . . And if Bulgaria should eventually join Jugo-Slavia, several other first class ports will have been acquired by the formidable new state, on the Aegean and the Black seas, like Dede-Agatch and Burgas. Beside these the "window" which President Wilson was led to advocate for Jugo-Slavia on the Adriatic, will look like a small dormer, looking into a purely Italian lake, and leading to nowhere, except through a long, round about back way.

A GLANCE INTO THE HISTORY OF DALMATIA

What the Germans did in Alsace-Lorraine, the Austrians did in Istria, Fiume and especially in Dalmatia, mostly since 1860, in an effort to "Croatize" and "de-Italianize" them. But history cannot be destroyed.

Dalmatia, "the Chile of the Adriatic", and its contiguous islands, were Roman Colonies as early as two centuries before Christ. Dalmatia gave Rome one of her greatest emperors in the person of Diocletian, whose monumental palaces, completed in 303, are still pointed out with pride by the natives of Spalato as worthy to rank among the "seven wonders", just as "most Italian Fiume" points to the triumphal Arch of another Roman Emperor, Claudius II, and to her Venetian Basilica of San Vito; as Sebenico's Cathedral, also of Venetian origin and design, is the pride of all Dalmatia. The Cathedral of Santa Anastasia in Zara, Capital of the 'kingdom of Dalmatia' (as its official name still is) was founded in 1202 by Enrico Dandolo, Doge of Venice. Her Campanile di Santa Maria is a century older. Zara has also preserved with care her old Roman Tower, her Roman aqueduct, and her ancient Loggia del Comune, with its 34.000 volumes and invaluable Latin and other manuscripts. A mere nomenclature of Dalmatia's Roman and Venetian antiquities and archeological remains would fill volumes. Many of the greatest among Italian poets and authors were natives of Dalmatia. Tommaseo is one of them. The whole

eastern coast of the Adriatic has given to Rome, Venice and Italy, down to the present day thousands upon thousands of patriots, soldiers and martyrs. Oberdan of Trieste, and Sauro of Istria are among the latest and greatest, along with Filzi, and Rismondo of Dalmatia, who have honored and hallowed Austria's scaffold by dying upon it for Italy's sake. Several of the political refugees from the eastern coast of the Adriatic have become ministers of the kingdom of Italy. One of them, General Zupelli was Italy's war minister during the recent war, and is yet the present incumbent of that exalted office.

The Adriatic sea was for upwards of twenty centuries a **Latin lake**, the **Mare Nostrum** of Rome, then of Venice, including the whole eastern coast. From 1805 to 1815 it was a province of the kingdom of Italy. After the fall of Napoleon at Waterloo, the Congress of Vienna, 1815, handed over Venice, Istria and Dalmatia to Austria. In 1848 Venice arose and revived the ancient Republic, and for eighteen months held at bay, single handed, the forces of the whole Austrian empire, and was subdued only by starvation and Cholera, and her ancient Dominions were plunged into deeper and more abject servitude.

But it was when the new kingdom of Italy came into existence, 1861, that the worst came for the Italian regions under Austrian rule. The Austrian government started in earnest to kill off the Italian race and language from Trentino, Istria and Dalmatia, and to transform the Adriatic into a German lake. The outrageous conditions under which unredeemed Italians were kept led to the war of 1866 and freed Venice. The cities of the Dalmatian coast made great preparations to give Italy's fleet a royal welcome, but the defeat

of Lissa by Tegethof prevented a landing. Austria then adopted such a cruel and vindictive policy against Dalmatia, that it was goaded into a revolution in 1869, which gave the Austrian government a pretext for wholesale executions. Murderous Hungarian and Croatian bands were let loose on those countries where they perpetrated the most unspeakable horrors, second to none that were to be committed later by **kultur** in Belgium or Servia. The scaffold, wholesale slaughters and banishment laid whole sections waste; some of the victims made their escape to Italy, others across the Dinaric Alps, where they met with some humanity at the hands of the Turkish authorities.

But 1878 came, and the Congress of Berlin, when Austria grabbed also those former Turkish territories, and extended her rule over both slopes of the Dinaric Alps. From that hour, the native Italian cause in Dalmatia and vicinity seemed doomed, unless a miracle of Providence should intervene. Since 1878, Austria has been promoting a wholesale immigration of the Croatian rabble from the former Turkish territories, which have now adopted the new name of "Jugo-Slavia". Famished hordes, recently released from Mohammedan control, crossed the Dinaric Alps, pounced upon defenceless Dalmatia and its old and marvelous civilization, its opulent cities, and under government protection endeavored to swamp the native element.

They were given the franchise the day they landed there, and so manipulated and debauched the political life there that, up to the day of the recent armistice, political and municipal elections in Dalmatia, were a sickening

farce; and the native Italian interests and cause were looked upon as henceforth and for ever a forlorn hope.

AUSTRO-CROATIAN METHODS

IN DALMATIA AND VICINITY.

The first sledge hammer blow was dealt at the native **Italian schools**, that had existed there from time immemorial. They and the native teachers were systematically and inexorably choked and stifled out of existence, and substituted with Croatian schools and teachers. The latter were ignorant, uncultured, and brutal. Italian was forbidden. Italian children were compelled to attend Croatian schools, and cruelly discriminated against. The intruding teachers had full swing as to corporal punishment. The **Italian press** came next. It was gradually suppressed by the political machine, under sinister plausibilities and monumental lies. "Obdurate" native editors and publishers were black-listed, and eventually sentenced to ruinous fines, long terms in jail, and banished, on the most preposterous pretexts. And an artificial Slav (Croatian) press was set up, sustained by the government under thin disguisements. The honorable and highly respected native **Italian Judiciary** was also uprooted and disqualified by the same means. The judges were "retired" one by one, or "deposed" on bogus complaints or formal, trumped-up charges, while a set of arrogant, corrupt and unscrupulous Croatian magistrates

was installed on the Dalmation bench. Unto them, ever since, no Italian need apply, justice and fairness being out of the question for the "rebels", whose life in Dalmatia was made a curse and a burden.

The Clergy came next. The most shameful pressure was exercised throughout Dalmatia and other unredeemed Italian lands to weed out all the clergy of Italian blood or sympathies. The rural districts and country parishes suffered most in this respect. Filthy ignoramuses, with no other qualifications except their Croatian origin and "loyalty" to the political machine, were forced upon exclusively Italian parishes, to preach the gospel of Croatia and Agram, confess in the name of Vienna, and slander and insult everything Italian. No absolution for the "impenitent". The **national clergy** had to give in, become the tool of the political machine or leave the land. The slogan imposed upon the populace from the pulpit and the confessional was: "**we are no longer Italians!**"

AUSTRIAN CENSUS RETURNS AND STATISTICS

But the worse was yet to follow. The Croatian oligarchy that acted in Dalmatia under the nominal authority of the Austrian government, cognizant of the indignation slowly created abroad by thousands of Dalmatian refugees, felt it imperative to "justify" its course before the world, so as to "disprove"

the contention of the victims. At suitable intervals a **census** was ordered, and the returns published far and wide by the Austrian government. In it it showed the progressive decrease of the native Italian population of Dalmatia and a correspondingly fast increase in the Jugoslav or Croatian numbers. And recently through the skilful operations of the Germanic propaganda in the matter, the world at large, and America in particular, were informed by certain correspondents that the question was settled, Dalmatia was "overwhelmingly Jugoslav", as it could claim over 80 per cent of the actual population, and the Italian proportion was absolutely "negligible".

Unfortunately for the propagators as well as the originators of those **statistics**, however "official" they may be, they have been repeatedly nailed down as **grossly fraudulent**, as a colossal lie, and in specific cases the absolute reverse of the truth. The Austrian government, or rather the Croation Camarilla at Agram, have also been belied by another **Census**, and other statistics, which they have been unable to contradict. They never thought or imagined that the Church would, unintentionably tell the truth. Now the religious census of Istria, Dalmatia and Fiume gives 85 per cent of their permanent population as belonging to the Roman Catholic, or Latin Church, the Church of the Italian or Latin masses, while the 15 per cent belongs to "all the other Churches" put together; the Protestant, Jewish and Greek Churches. The Greek Church, the Church of the Jugoslavs numbering in all about the 5 per cent, with one bishop, while the Roman or Latin Church has, in Dalmatia alone one Archbishop and five Bishops, in spite of all the

official, inquisitorial terrorism put in action there for over one generation past to destroy Italianism and foster and nurse Croatianism.

WHAT A PROMINENT CROAT BOASTED

...Where and how did the Austrian Croats find a base for their claims? That question was answered, unwittingly, a short time before the great war broke out, by an unsuspecting Croatian, raised in Dalmatia.

The writer had occasion to draw upon his confidence, and catch a considerable insight behind the scenes of Croatian politics.

"During the past 35 or 40 years, said this patriotic Croat, over one hundred and fifty thousand Italians in Dalmatia have been registered **ex-officio** as Croats, mostly in the rural districts, where our work has been comparatively easy, and found less resistance than in the cities where the Italian leaders had maintained some kind of an organization. In this connection our clergy, teachers, magistrates, and canvassers gave us invaluable co-operation. During that time another hundred and fifty thousand natives (Italians) were rooted up and driven out of Dalmatia, who represented the most dangerous, anti-Croatian elements. Suitable means, you know, were used (**here a chuckle**), while, in round numbers, fully two hundred thousand Croats were brought across the Dinaric Alps, and helped, in all possible ways to settle

in Dalmatia. We have powerful means at our disposal, the good will of the government, and strong organizations. Give us another 35 or 40 years, and I guarantee there will not be a man in all Dalmatia daring to call himself Italian. (Here a long rigmarole against Doctor Baiamonti, the once powerful Italian mayor or "podestà" of Spalato, and a victim of Austrian persecution).

"Moreover, continued this paragon of Croatian **kultur**, from 1902 to 1910 we have added over fifty thousand Slavs to the population of Istria and Trieste, and crowded out nearly as many Italians. Take my word, in a few years we will reduce Istria also." — "What about Fiume?" said I. —

"Well, Fiume is a harder nut to crack. It is the port of Hungary, politically Hungarian territory, and the Budapest government has a vital interest in protecting the great Italian majority in that territory, and does not desire it to come under Croatian control. But we may yet find a way. . . ."

Now, all these, **Facts**, and conditions have often been confirmed to us by political refugees on neutral soil, on both sides of the Ocean, although from an entirely different standpoint. And they form the substance of the motives that dragged Italy into the great war. The Rome government embodied them in the communication addressed to the Powers in 1915 justifying Italy's course: To rescue Italian populations from unbearable foreign tyranny, stop the automatic suppression of the Italian language, Italian schools, Italian judges, Italian press, police, and civilization, in those territories geographically, strategically, linguistically and historically Italian.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA AND THE JUGO - SLAVS.

The Military and political machine of the ex-Central Empires has been crushed in the dust. Not so the superb machinery of German propaganda. Its insidious, unscrupulous and all pervading influence, downed in America with Bernstorff, was left intact in Europe. Its aims, its ways and means are the same, and so are its ultimate dreams. Von Buelow failed to keep Italy out of the war on the Allied side. Pan Germanism must get even with her. So the propaganda has now taken hold of the Jugo - Slav claims, and is working them to death against Italy, and through her against the Allied Camp.

Not that pan-Germanism cares for the Slavs of any description, but the Croatians of Agram, under their new name of "Jugo-Slavs", supply the propaganda with a convenient handle, an apparently plausible, even virtuous handle for the dagger that is to stab Italy in her most vital parts, and eventually nullify her sacrifices and amazing victories. "But for Italy's defection from the Dreibund we would have won this war!" — "But for Italy's victory on the Piave, that opened up our rear to invasion, we would never have surrendered to Foch!" These and similar whines have filled some sections of the German press, and gone up from Hunnish throats on both sides of the Atlantic. With thorough Prussian efficiency the kultur propaganda has set to work, and those poor, blind,

misguided Slavs have swallowed the bait, boasting of the "millions of Dollars" placed at their disposal, and crying to the ex-kaiser's old **Gott**. But if there happen to be venal newspapers or correspondents anywhere, they are being hunted up and purchased, to spread "neutral opinion" on both sides of the water, and even "Allied opinion", and imaginary interviews with "leading diplomats", against Italy.

These noisy, blustering Jugo-Slavs, left to themselves would never have dared to put themselves on record for the wicked utterances and criminal threats, that have only hurt and injured their claims before the world. They are yet very far removed from the sound and calm principles and customs of democratic constituencies worthy of self government.

This clumsy Germanic camouflage, meant to embroil and confuse the Allies by pestering America and her President with such persistency, is bound to failure. The only possible advantage that may be derived from it is for the little crop of ambitious and noisy little candidates for office in the coming distribution of Jugo-Slav government "plums". A Croatianized Dalmatia under the artificial conditions created there within the last third of a century would no doubt be a "Paradise regained" for some of them.

SLAVS AND SLAVS

We doff our hats to heroic little Serbia. Also to Poland, and to the Czeco-Slovacks of Bohemia, Moravia and nearby regions. They all fought honorably and suffered much for the

cause of democracy and freedom, side by side with the Allies. But, pray, what have the Jugo-Slavs of Croatia and Slavonia done to dare demand or dictate such peace terms from the victorious Allies? They fought to the last ditch and to the last minute on the Austro-German side. The Croatsians enjoyed an infinitely privileged position under Austrian rule, over the Italian natives of "Unredeemed Italy" especially in Dalmatia. The impartial equality of the democratic rule restored by Italy recently in those provinces is bitterly resented by the Croatsians, just as the restoration of liberty for the Alsatians is a bitter pill for the Germans to swallow. The Jugo-Slavs of Croatia and Slavonia were conspicuous for their ferocity in the outrageous invasion of Serbia, that is, against their own "brethren" in Slavism. Croatian and Slavonian regiments were among the most murderous Austro-German hordes that tortured the defenceless population of Venetia, after the Italian disaster at Caporetto. And if the Central powers had won the war, said Jugo-Slavs of Croatia would not now be blabbering of "liberty" or invoke "self determination" or appeal to President Wilson, but they would have laid waste Venice, Milan and even Rome, and invaded southern France, and laid it in ashes, as their "brethren-in-arms" did to Louvain, Rheims, and came within an ace of doing to Paris. The record of Croatian soldiers, wherever Austria ever dominated, is the most infamous in history. From all authentic and impartial reports Italy is very far from victimizing them, as they would have the world believe. They have no decent right to whine and act the part of martyrs because victorious Italy is restoring her rightful conquests to normal conditions, and restoring equality and democratic impar-

tiality, in which Italians are now supposed to share, in that historically and linguistically, as well as geographically Italian province called Dalmatia.

The Croats were "Austrian" till yesterday, under the two-headed eagle of the Hapsburg flag. And they are to day the very self same men under a new name and as a "republic" born at the last minute, in an attempt to save themselves from the Austrian débacle, through a piece of gross and thick **Camouflage** that has deceived no one at all acquainted with real facts. "Austria" is gone, i. e. the Austria of the late empire, but it is there, almost intact, and far more dangerous, as a purely Slavic state, because compact and ravenously ambitious, with a mere change of name. The elimination of Germanic Austria, is more than compensated by the addition of Serbia, and the prospective addition of Bulgaria. Moreover, this new Jugo-Slavia is but the van guard of Pan-Slavism, as the indications are that the Czeco-Slovacks and the Poles will join in the federation. Behind them the whole Slavic race, 160 million strong, rapidly pervaded by Croatian "unprincipled principles" against Italy, will bring down a menace far more dangerous than pan-Germanism itself. Far-seeing statesmen from all Latin countries and from Britain, have pointed out the danger long before the great war broke out.

The same spirit that has aroused Berlin to welcome the "undefeated" German armies as victors, at the strains of **Deutschland uber alles**, will not be slow to avail itself of new conditions to help crush the Latin race on the Adriatic shores, to eventually make it into a German lake and dominate the Mediterranean, while the Slavs will endeavor to dominate the eastern Mediterranean and the Black sea. This

is but the abridged outlines of a series of articles from time to time published in French and other well informed Magazines.

NABOTH'S VINEYARD

Rid of cant and pretense, the loud wail of the Croatian Jugo-Slavs on Dalmatia is reduced to a question of disappointed ambition, and to the somewhat ludicrous rage of the rider who, at a jerk of his hitherto docile and helpless riding-horse, has suddenly been tossed up in the air and somewhat uncerimoniously "dumped sitting" on the cold ground. In a word, Dalmatia's day has come, as Alsace-Lorraine's, and the cruel Croatian driver is no longer allowed to tyrannize and plunder and murder at will and with impunity the Italian natives of that fair land between the Adriatic sea and the Dinaric Alps. No doubt Dalmatia, Fiume, Istria and Trieste would be very desirable possessions for the Jugo-Slavs of Croatia. No doubt Naboth's vineyard would have come very handy to Ahab, but even if he could have kept it long enough to plant it with imported varieties of vines, and set imported husbandmen to do his vintages, it would not have given him a clear title to it. The two "sons of Belial" who bore false witness against Naboth; the wicked procedure of Jezebel; and the public stoning of Naboth, did not give king Ahab a clear title to the vineyard, nor prevent Elijah the Tishbite from passing a terrible sentence upon him and his house. Elijah's part in Dalmatia has now been acted by Italy. (I

Kings 21). The "Sons of Belial" are the German propaganda.

If Dalmatian ports are to be awarded to Jugo-Slavia on the ground of "convenience" or even "necessity" and the Italian natives of Dalmatia must surrender them to their oppressors, and Italy renounce that essentially Italian land, what can or will you answer the German Junkers when they say that the seaports of Holland and Belgium were "very desirable and necessary" to Germany? They also thought, probably in good faith, that all they had to do in the case was to step in and grab them.

THE SURRENDER OF THE FLEET

According to the terms of the Armistice, Germany and Austria, beaten to a frazzle, were to surrender their respective fleets to the Allies. Germany surrendered hers, and the world applauded. What did Austria do? By a knavish trick, that could not have deceived a country bunkan, the Croatian personnel of her fleet adopted a new name, a new flag, a new subterfuge, and "transferred" the Austrian fleet unto themselves, refusing to surrender it to Italy, as though she had not been one of the Allies. The "Jugo-Slav" republic, proclaimed by the Croatian sailors **in extremis**, and a pretense of adhesion to the Allies, and to Wilson's principles, did it. Did the President take them seriously?... Such a piece of deception would never have been possible except for the fact that, at the beginning of the war Austria had **weeded out** of her Adriatic

fleet all the officers and **sailors of Italian blood** or sympathies, natives of Dalmatia, Fiume, Istria and Trieste, and sent them all to fight and die on the Russian front, or in her concentration camps, and manned her fleet entirely with Croatian sailors and German officers. The latter were only too glad, when the time came, to oblige their accomplices and defraud the Allies; thus the "transfer" was made. After which they had a stout enough heart to implore America "to restrain" Italy's ambition and "imperialism". Then they went further, and under pretext of self determination they hastened to **link their cause with that of Serbia**, in order to further hoodwink America and the world, and escape the punishment they, up to the last minute of the war, had richly deserved.

THAT PLEBISCITE

"All hail self determination, as President Wilson proclaimed it, said a great writer recently, but it must be somewhat qualified, or it can be used as a pretext for criminal injustices!" Clémenceau says the thug brought to justice has no right to self determination, to escape his fate. Suppose Bernstorff's underhand propaganda had succeeded to induce a solid million of Germanic populations of rural Pennsylvania to demand annexation to Germany, would the President and America have bowed to it with a "God bless you?" — Would a plebiscite in Alsace-Lorraine, under conditions created there by 48 years of German tyranny, and the franchise granted to half a million immigrated Germans, have meant a

real self determination for those provinces? France was too wise to hear of such a course. Let the high way robber disgorge first, then we may talk it over.

The case of Dalmatia is identical with Alsace-Lorraine's, only aggravated by a longer foreign tyranny, and worse conditions created by it under Austro-Croatian methods. A "plebiscite" in Istria and Dalmatia, would be an outrage on the native populations, upon common sense, truth and humanity. The Croats there are as much foreigners as the 150 thousand Italians in South Philadelphia, and the half million Germans in New York. "Give France and Italy ten years time, under free and democratic rule, in their redeemed provinces, and if ten years from now the natives should ask for a "plebiscite" it will be a bonafide expression of their mind", writes a friend.

To all appearance, if this noisy, artificial agitation is kept up by that secret German propaganda on behalf of the late despoilers of Dalmatia and Istria, **Italy is preparing to call the bluff**, and "show her teeth". Her enemies will back down and give bonds to keep the peace. You may depend upon it.

THE ITALIAN LAKE

When all shall have been told, and Italy shall have annexed all the lands of hitherto "unredeemed Italy", including Dalmatia, Italy will have reaped less advantages, proportionately and absolutely, than each of the other nations concerned .

Take it in square miles, or in the numbers of people added to the kingdom, and you will find that Rumania will have more than doubled her territory and population. Serbia will have the treble or quadruple of both. With the most disinterested disposition France will gather in her rightful heritage up to the Rhine. Even beaten Germany will be dangerously the gainer if allowed, in the name of self determination, to swallow up the Teutonic parts of Austria. But Italy never meant and never did go beyond her natural, geographic and strategic frontier of the Alps, either on the north towards Germany or eastward towards Jugo-Slavia. But **that frontier**, on the crest of the Julian Alps, the Velebit and Dinaric Alps, **she must have** and hold at all hazards and for ever, or die. She will not "make" the Adriatic into an Italian sea, as German propaganda gold has led some unwary press agents to declare. But she will doubtless restore and preserve what has been for twenty centuries the "Italian Lake" of the Adriatic, though some would fain **make** it into a Croatian pond, and Balkanize all its shores.

Not that Italy should not come to an amicable understanding with the new neighboring state across the Julian and Dinaric Alps, and grant Croatia and Jugo-Slavia commercial and economic facilities in some ports of southern Dalmatia, like Cattaro, Ragusa, or others. But if she should renounce or abandon her political rights on any of the cities and ports of Dalmatia, it would be tantamount to allowing the pan-Slavic camel to stick his nose into the Latin tent, and she would ere long have to fight another and worse life-and-death war. In this question all the Latin powers, and the great Anglo-Saxon allies, that have saved the

world for freedom and democracy, have a vital interest.

For Italy to surrender to the Jugo-Slavs what she rescued from Austria at such a staggering cost in blood and treasury, would be the heights of self-stultification and madness. She has suffered long enough from the Mongrel frontiers imposed upon her by cruel neighbors, north and east. Long enough has she supplied distant cities and states with "windows" on her inner sea, and tolerated intruders in all those Roman-Venetian seaports of her eastern Adriatic coast. Time, please!

In a great address to a crowd of Dalmatian Refugees in Italy, just before Italy declared war on Austria, **D'Annunzio, the poet and hero**, said to them: "you are the hem of the Roman toga, and as such absolutely essential to its whole fabric!"

The time is over now when an armed band of Croatians, flying from their defeat on the Piave, sought to terrorize the whole city of Fiume, and pretend to demand that its 50,000 citizens pull down the Italian flags they had spontaneously raised at the report of the latest Italian victories in the Venetian plains. The ridiculous "change of name" they tried to impose on that old Roman city has amused the galleries and left matters as they were before. Admiral Cagni the Governor, in answer to a unanimous appeal from the authorities and people of Fiume, has pledged them his honor that their city and territory shall remain Italian for ever.

It is to be hoped that the Peace Congress will remember the word of one of the greatest British statesmen: "Let us be **just** to all, but **first to our Allies**, who shed their blood alongside of us!"

It is also evident that the spirit of Cavour, Garibaldi and Crispi is once more thoroughly aroused, to sway Italy to the "manifest destiny" that Providence and her own heroism have opened before her, for the completion of the national unity. She will be one of the strongest elements of lasting peace, and the nations, like Hun and Croat, who bow to nothing but superior force will henceforth respect her; and if any Italian government were weak or sentimental enough to give in to flattery or intimidation, and abandon a single square foot of the dearly paid for and reconquered national soil, or a single Italian constituency to the tender mercies of Croatia, it would be considered by the nation as a sinner against humanity. The whole Nation would once more rise as one man, sweep that government off the face of the earth, and complete its own national unity, or perish.

VOICES FROM DALMATIA AND ISTRIA

In the new Shubert Theatre, Philadelphia, Dec. 22, 1918, a great meeting was held under the auspices of various societies of natives of the hitherto "unredeemed Italy". It was the 36th anniversary of the Murder of Oberdan, on an Austrian scaffold, at Trieste, his native city, for the crime of being an Italian patriot and expressing his desire that Trieste should be free from Austrian tyranny. Among the English speakers who addressed the Philadelphia meeting was Dr. G. Furlani, of Pola, of-

ficial representative of the Social Democracy of Istria and Dalmatia to make known to the American Democracy the legitimate aspirations of those countries to their motherland, Italy.

Dr. Furlani underlined most of the facts recited in the foregoing pages, how Dalmatia was violently torn asunder from Italy after twenty centuries of almost uninterrupted union, and ruthlessly thrown into Austria's fangs at the Congress of Vienna, and how Austrian rule in that unhappy land, under Croatian domination, down to the recent war, made it a century of hell, disintegration and agony.

In spite of all that, the Roman and Italian civilization has stood the test there and left indelible marks on the whole eastern coast of the Adriatic, from Trieste to Cattaro.

"Every body in Dalmatia speaks Italian, even the trespassing Jugo Slavs from Croatia, as the environment always was and is Italian. The very air we breathe there, the sea, the island, the hills, the flowers, the animals, the names of localities and people, the songs, the legends, the traditions, the tongue and the soul of Dalmatia are purely Italian. And now if victorious Italy should push altruism and condescension so far as to relinquish into the cruel hands of Croatia Italian lands and ports, and populations that have withstood a hundred years of dire oppression and martyrdom for her sake, it would constitute one of the saddest and most criminal tragedies in history. We never were consulted as to our desires or interests. Each revolution was only used as a pretext to crush us farther down in blood and mire. Why should now our despoilers and murderers who drove our people away from our native lands, robbed them of home and all

that made life worth living, be allowed now as a crowning insult and injury to speak in the name of Dalmatia and call that "self-determination?"

As soon as the Italian victory of the Piave was heralded the Italian tricolor sprung from the ground and floated proudly every where, on every native homestead of Istria, Dalmatia and nearby islands, and the "Jugoslavic" Croatian police was powerless to tear it down, except in very few instances."

Colonel Pizzarello, also a native of Istria, recently gave out the same facts in the Holland House, New York.

APPENDIX

THAT JUGOSLAV APPEAL TO AMERICA

We have on hand a protest of natives of unredeemed Italy against an "appeal" issued by Jugoslavs, asking funds for "starving babies" of Jugoslavia. The burden of said protest rendered in English is as follows:

1. That appeal to American Charity, as far as it concerns "Istria and Dalmatia" is one of the most insidious and disreputable tricks

of German propaganda in America. It is on a par with and more subtle than the appeal German mothers sent to Mrs. Wilson for the "starving babies of Germany". For it has in the main an hypocritical purpose, that of **conveying** to the unsuspecting American public **the impression that Dalmatia and Istria are part of Jugoslavia, which they are not,** never were and never shall be, being separated from it by that huge mountain ridge called the Julian Alps, the Velebit and Dinaric Alps, whose tops reach up to about 6000 feet at Mount Dinara and others. Croats have no right to beg for Dalmatia or Istria, which are purely Italian lands, geographically, historically and linguistically. Croats have never done anything for these lands except to rob and despoil them. Surely the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel, whether they are German propagandists or their Croatian tools.

2. That appeal lies when it makes the public believe that Jugoslavia suffered from German **kultur**. No Germans went near Croatia during this war. The insidious propaganda has overreached itself in this master - piece of deception. Jugoslavia did not suffer any more than other Austrian sections, but Dalmatia and Istria did, because the Croatian intruders carried off all they could lay hands on, and reduced the natives to starvation.

3. There is no occasion for Croatian charity in Dalmatia or Istria, as the Italian Government has amply supplied the needs from the first days of its occupation of the two provinces, without discrimination as to race or creed, as it has only occupied those sections where the great bulk of the people specifically demanded protection against the depredations and terrorism of lawless marauding Croatian bands.

4. The very ex-Czar of Russia and his Government, high protectors of Panslavism, by becoming parties to the "Pact of London" which guaranteed Italy the full possessions of Dalmatia and Istria acknowledged ipso-facto that those provinces were purely Italian and not Jugoslavic. — What? Another "scrap of paper?"

5. J. F. Marcosson is right when he says the Teutonic powers have "not been beaten badly enough" and that they and their accomplices, (including the Jugoslavs of Croatia) only understand the big stick but not the honest, soft, human word. The lands between the Dinaric Alps and the Adriatic are to Italy exactly what the lands between the Rhine and the Vosges are to France.

Another Dalmatian writes as follows:

"To have soundly thrashed Austria, and liberated Dalmatia, simply to surrender it to the Jugoslavs of Croatia because they became a "republic" at the eleventh hour and sixty ninth minute, would be tantamount to have licked Germany and liberated Alsace, simply to surrender it to the Junkers of Prussia because they became a "republic" at the last gasp of the empire. Don't the big men at Rome and Paris see it? Why don't you write or telegraph it to them? Aren't the native rights of Dalmatians as good as those of our friends in Alsace, or those of the Poles in Posnania? Would the Peace Conference decree that the sporadic colonies of Croatians in Dalmatia and of Germans in Posnania and Alsace have cancelled the rights of the autochtones to decide the fate of the lands of their fathers? The Croats in Dalmatia like the Germans in Alsace and Posnania, are just as truly immigrants in a foreign country as the millions of aliens that have landed on the shores of America within

the past thirty or forty years. Indeed they are as foreign as the German hordes that have invaded and occupied Belgium and Northern France during the past four years.

"The great President of the United States said that the Congress of Vienna was a "congress of Bosses" concerned with their own interests, not those of the people. We do not want to be "Croatized" a minute longer. The partition of Italy at Vienna was as cruel as that of Poland. It took Italy a century of efforts and tens of thousands of martyrs to rise again and complete her unity, which would not be complete if Dalmatia were to be excluded forever. Irredentism, would lead to another war ere long, for the liberation of Dalmatia."

"If the Congress of Versailles will not undo the crimes of the Congress of Vienna against Dalmatia it will have added another crime to history." D. S.

UNIVERSITY

OF

PENNSYLVANIA

LIBRARY

940.92

M683

v.14

no.1

Miscellaneous pamph.
bearing on The World war.

Dec '28 10088

940.92

M683

v.14

no.1

